

In the Claims:

1. (original) A method of recognising an image, comprising the steps of :
 - a. processing the image to provide an image set containing a plurality of different processed images;
 - b. combining the processed images in the image set;
 - c. transforming the data space occupied by the processed images in the image set;
 - d. generating, from the image-set represented in the transformed data space, an image key representative of the image; and
 - e. comparing the image key with at least one previously stored image key of a known image.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein step a. includes extracting image features including at least one of edges, lines, wavelets, gradient components, curvature components and colour components.
3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein step b. is carried out prior to step c.
4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein step c. is carried out prior to step b.
5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein step e. comprises comparing the image key with just one previously stored image key, to verify the identity of the image.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein step e. comprises comparing the image key with a plurality of previously stored image keys, to identify the image.
7. (original) A method according to claim 6, comprising the further step of sorting the results of the comparison in step e. to produce a list of potential matches with previously stored image keys.
8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein step e. is carried out using a Euclidean distance metric (the L2 norm), mahalanobis distance metric or a cosine distance metric.
9. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, including the step prior to step a. of rotating and/or positioning the image to a predetermined orientation and/or position and/or depth normalisation.
10. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, including a step prior to step b. of normalising data prior to combination.
11. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image is obtained from a camera.
12. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image comprises 3D data.

13. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image comprises 2D data.
14. (currently amended) A method according to claims 12 ~~and 13~~, wherein said image comprises a registered 2D-3D image pair.
15. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein step c. is carried out by a Principal Component Analysis method.
16. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein step c. is carried out by Fisher's Linear Discriminant Analysis method.
17. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image is an image of a face.
18. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image is an image of a human face.
19. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image is a natural image.
20. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said image set includes the original image.
21. (cancelled)

22. (original) Apparatus for recognising an image, the apparatus comprising:

- a. processing means arranged to process the image to provide a plurality of different processed images.
- b. combining means arranged to combine the processed images;
- c. reducing means arranged to reduce the data space occupied by the processed images;
- d. generating means arranged to generate from the combined and reduced processed images an image key representative of the image; and
- e. comparison means arranged to compare the image key with at least one previously stored image key of a known image.

23. (currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 21~~ for recognising an image, the apparatus comprising, and arranged to perform a method according to any of claims 1 to 20 claim 1:

- a. processing means arranged to process the image to provide a plurality of different processed images.
- b. combining means arranged to combine the processed images;
- c. reducing means arranged to reduce the data space occupied by the processed images;
- d. generating means arranged to generate from the combined and reduced processed images an image key representative of the image; and
- e. comparison means arranged to compare the image key with at least one previously stored image key of a known image.

24. (cancelled)

25. (original) A method of recognising a three-dimensional image, comprising the steps of:

- a. transforming the data space occupied by the image using Fisher's Linear Discriminant Analysis;
- b. generating, from the transformed data space, an image key representative of the image; and
- c. comparing the image key with at least one previously stored image key of a known image.

26. (original) Apparatus for recognising a three-dimensional image, the apparatus comprising:

- a. means for transforming the data space occupied by the image using Fisher's Linear Discriminant Analysis;
- b. means for generating, from the transformed data space, an image key representative of the image; and
- c. means for comparing the image key with at least one previously stored image key of a known image.